

May 4, 2004  
MB 04-160

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a request that you vote against the NAB motion to stop satellite radio from broadcasting traffic and weather nationally, MB 04-160.

We have been subscribers to satellite radio for over a year. Our immediate family has seven subscriptions. Quite frankly, we don't feel we could live without it.

More to the point, last month we drove from San Francisco to southern California. The real-time traffic information from satellite radio was invaluable. We avoided a major traffic tie up in the L.A. area and we cut our driving time by at least an hour.

Then we talked about what a Godsend this must be for truckers. They (like us) are able to monitor the traffic in major towns while they are still hundreds of miles away - and unable to monitor local stations where the problem might be. They then can plan alternate routes that would save them and all of commerce a lot of wasted time and unnecessary expense. In addition, this tends to reduce the tie ups by not throwing more traffic into the mess. Our freeway accidents and spills can stop traffic for several hours in each direction . And remember, local radio stations do not broadcast to the high desert or the North coast.

Satellite radio broadcasts by sound and limited print. It can scroll brief headlines on the dashboard receiver for emergencies and alerts. Think "Amber Alerts." It would be a shame to stop that service. I know that some local radio stations are very good at their coverage on Amber Alerts, but they can't print the license number on the dash and leave it there.

The traffic and weather reports we get on satellite radio are head and shoulders above any previous reports from local stations. We have also used the satellite stations to get weather in other areas previous to airline flights there.

It would be a terrible disservice to American drivers and the public in general if you were to stop this service.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Casey  
Novato, California